United Nations ECE/EX/9

Economic and Social Council

4 April 2014

English

Original: English, French
Russian

Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Committee

Decision approving the programme of work for 2014-2015 of the housing and land management component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme

The Executive Committee, at its sixty-sixth meeting on 6 February 2014, approved an amended programme of work for 2014-2015 as contained in the Annex.

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Annex

Programme of work for 2014-2015 of the housing and land management component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme

I. Introduction

1. The present document sets out the programme of work of the housing and land management component of the Housing, Land Management and Population subprogramme ("the subprogramme") for 2014–2015. The Committee on Housing and Land Management ("the Committee") considered the programme and subsequently adopted it at its seventy-fourth session. It was then submitted to the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Executive Committee for formal approval. The Committee will have the opportunity to adjust its programme of work during the course of the biennium and such adjustments will be reflected in a separate document.

2. The programme of work applies a results-based approach. It comprises, for each cluster of activities, an expected accomplishment and a list of outputs/activities proposed to be carried out in 2014–2015. The delivery of these outputs/activities is expected to contribute to achieving the expected results.

3. The grouping of activities into clusters is the same as that used by the Committee for the biennial evaluation of its subprogramme performance. The correlation between the ECE Strategic Framework and the cluster framework used for subprogramme biennial evaluation for 2014–2015 is shown in document ECE/HBP/2013/11.

4. Furthermore, the outputs/activities listed in this document correspond with the ECE proposed programme budget for 2014–2015 and are complemented by additional items to reflect the more recent developments and identified needs of ECE member States. For easy reference, such new outputs/activities have been clearly indicated as "additional".

5. The outputs/activities have been listed under the cluster of activities to which they belong according to the following main categories: (a) meetings and related parliamentary documentation; (b) publications and other information material; and (c) technical cooperation, including, seminars, workshops, training sessions, advisory services.

6. The relevant indicators of achievement, together with baseline and target data, against which performance will be measured, are presented in document ECE/HBP/2013/11 in order to facilitate the task of the Committee of assessing whether all outputs which are necessary to achieve the expected result have been included in the plan.

7. Section II comprises four clusters of activities as follows: sustainable housing and real estate markets; sustainable urban development; land administration and management; county profiles on housing and land management. The description of the clusters is based on the decisions taken at the seventy-third session of the Committee (ECE/HBP/170) and on the outcomes of a survey report, which highlights the priorities of ECE member States relevant to each cluster of the programme of work (ECE/HBP/2013/2).

8. The appendix to the present document lists the ECE overall legislative mandates and those specific for the subprogramme.

II. Objective and strategy

9. The objective of the housing and land management component of the subprogramme is to improve the housing, urban and land governance in the region by strengthening the formulation and implementation of policies, enhancing social cohesion and developing capacities at the national and local levels.

10. The responsibility for the housing and land management component of the subprogramme is vested in the Economic Cooperation, Trade, and Land Management Division.

11. The housing and land management component of the subprogramme works to improve housing, as well as urban and land governance, in the region. It also promotes the implementation of (a) the ECE strategy for a sustainable quality of life in human settlements in the twenty-first century, and (b) the Ministerial Declaration on Social and Economic Challenges in Distressed Urban Areas in the ECE Region. To achieve the expected results, the subprogramme will provide a forum for policy dialogue and exchange of experience, develop policy guidance and organize capacity-building activities in the areas of housing and land management to promote the implementation of ECE guidance and policy recommendations. This work will focus on: housing policy formulation and implementation; sustainable, energy-efficient housing; effective maintenance and management of the housing stock; increasing transparency in real estate markets; effective land administration; and spatial planning.

12. In order to contribute to the efficient and transparent governance and improvement of the urban environment, continued efforts will be made to analyse and review the existing housing situation, including maintenance, renewal and new construction, energy efficiency measures and safety in buildings, legislation and housing finance. This process will lead to the development of policy recommendations and related capacity-building activities.

13. The housing and land management component of the subprogramme will also promote the implementation of ECE guidance in the areas of: housing, including affordable and energy-efficient housing; informal settlements; climate neutral urban development; and transparent real estate markets. In the area of land management, emphasis will be placed on the upgrading of land and real estate systems in order to: provide secure ownership of land; ensure other private and public rights in real estate; and encourage investment. These objectives will be promoted through capacity-building activities, while regional model programmes and pilot projects, as well as public-private partnerships, will be encouraged.

14. The integration of housing policy with spatial planning, land administration, population and environmental policy will be promoted through policy recommendations and related capacity-building activities, with a special emphasis on such cross-sectoral issues as urban response to climate change, energy efficiency in the housing sector and the housing needs of low-income segments of society.

III. Outputs/activities to be delivered in the 2014-2015 biennium

A. Cluster 1 - Sustainable housing and real estate markets

Description of cluster	*Expected accomplishments from this cluster*
This cluster focuses on improving housing energy efficiency, facilitating the maintenance, management and refurbishment of existing housing stock and developing real estate markets which contribute to economic growth. It also focuses on the social dimension of sustainable housing to address housing affordability, social housing and low-cost housing. The activity provides an opportunity to look at how to adapt the housing supply to demographic changes and ensure access to healthy and safe housing in the region. The cluster also covers the development of a non-binding Charter on sustainable housing through the work of the Bureau of the Committee on Housing and Land Management and possible informal meetings.	Improved policies for sustainable housing and real estate markets

Outputs/activities[1]

(a) Meetings and related parliamentary documentation

1.1. Annual sessions of the Committee on Housing and Land Management (8)[2]

1.2. Meetings of the Bureau of the Committee on Housing and Land Management (12)

1.3. Informal meetings on the Charter on sustainable housing (12) (additional)

1.4. Reports of the annual sessions of the Committee (2)

1.5. Documents on specific topics requested by the Committee (12)

1.6. Reports of bureau or informal meetings on the Charter (6) (additional)

1.7. Background papers for in-depth discussion on the Charter (5) (additional)

(b) Publications and other information material

1.8. Policy guidelines on housing and land management (1)

1.9. Booklet of the Committee on Housing and Land Management (1)

1.10. Annual sets of press releases to be issued on the occasion of meetings, forums and the issuance of publications related to housing and land management activities (2)

[1] Outputs and activities relevant to all four clusters, such as sessions of the Committee and relevant documents, are listed under this cluster.

[2] Outputs for the servicing of intergovernmental meetings are given in units of half-days.

1.11. Maintenance of the website providing access to information and documents related to housing and land management activities (2)

(c) Technical cooperation

1.12. Workshops, seminars and training courses on affordable and energy efficient housing (2)

1.13. Workshops/roundtables on sustainable real estate markets (2) (additional)

B. Cluster 2 - Sustainable urban development

Description of cluster	*Expected accomplishments from this cluster*
This cluster promotes an integrated approach to planning and building sustainable cities and urban settlements. The focus is on activities relevant to spatial planning which results in compact, efficient and inclusive cities and low-carbon and disaster resilient urban development. The cluster also addresses issues relevant to information, communication and technology for urban planning and informal settlements. The implementation of the activities largely depends on voluntary extrabudgetary contributions.	Improved policies for urban development

Outputs/activities

(a) Publications and other information material

2.1. A study and policy recommendations on urban development and spatial planning (2) (additional)

(b) Technical cooperation

2.2. Workshops, seminars and training courses on urban development and spatial planning (2)

C. Cluster 3 - Land administration and management

Description of cluster	*Expected accomplishments from this cluster*
This cluster promotes the improvement of land administration and management by supporting security of tenure, improving cadastre and land registries, and developing real estate markets, as a driving force for economic stability and growth. The cluster addresses land registration, e-governance, land tenure, spatial information and cadastres. Emphasis will be placed on resolving the challenge of informal settlements and on guidelines for the organizational structure of land registries and cadastres.	Improved policies for land administration and cadastre organizations

Outputs/activities

(a) Meetings and related parliamentary documentation

3.1. Biennial session of the Working Party on Land Administration (3 half-days), and servicing of the Bureau meetings

3.2. Report of the biennial session of the Working Party (1)

3.3. Documents on specific topics requested by the Working Party (5)

(b) Publications and other information material

3.4. Booklet on the Working Party on Land Administration (1)

3.5. Studies and recommendations on land administration issues (2) (additional)

(c) Technical cooperation

3.6. Workshops, seminars and training courses on land administration issues (4) (including 2 additional)

D. Cluster 4 - Country profiles on housing and land management

Description of cluster	*Expected accomplishments from this cluster*
The priority under this cluster is the development of country profiles. Country profiles are studies on housing, land management, or both. They are conducted on the request of ECE member States, coordinated by the secretariat and drafted by independent international experts. Work includes also monitoring of and support to the implementation of the country profile recommendations, including through technical model projects. The Committee is currently developing guidelines for the preparation of the country profiles. The implementation of these activities largely depends on voluntary extrabudgetary contributions.	Improved housing and land management policies in country profile target countries

Outputs/activities

(a) Publications and other information material

4.1. Country profiles (2)

(b) Technical cooperation

4.2. Fact-finding and advisory missions in the preparation of and follow-up of the country profiles of the housing sector (2)

4.3. Workshops, seminars and training courses on implementation of the country profiles (2)

Appendix

I. Legislative mandates

A. Overall ECE legislative mandates

1. Resolutions of the General Assembly

Resolution No.	*Title*
55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
60/1	2005 World Summit Outcome
64/210	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
64/236	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development
66/165	Protection of and assistance to internally displaced people
66/288	The future we want

2. Resolutions of the Economic and Social Council

Resolution No.	*Title*
2006/38	Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission
2009/28	The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration on the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development adopted at the high-level segment of the 2008 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council
2009/29	Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16

3. Decisions of the Economic Commission for Europe

Decision No.	*Title*
E/ECE/1434/Rev.1	Work Plan on ECE Reform
A (65)	Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE

B. Legislative mandates specific to the subprogramme

1. Resolutions of the General Assembly

Resolution No.	*Title*
57/275	Special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
64/207	Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

2. Decisions of the Economic Commission for Europe

Decision No.	*Title*
ECE/HBP/120	"Strategy for a sustainable quality of life in human settlements in the twenty-first Century", endorsed at a Ministerial Meeting in 2000
ECE/HBP/142/Add.1	Ministerial Declaration on "Social and Economic Challenges in Distressed Urban Areas in the UNECE Region", adopted in 2006
ECE/HBP/173, para 90	"Strategy for sustainable housing and land management in the ECE region for the period from 2014 to 2020" adopted at a Ministerial Meeting in October 2013.